

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SAB-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-02 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/AB:JKARINSHAK

APPROVED BY: S/AB:JKARINSHAL

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R 161713Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAMASCUS 00141 ACTION WASHDC INFO AMMAN  
BEIRUT CAIRO JERUSALEM JIDDA KUWAIT MOSCOW TEL AVIV TRIPOLI  
WASHDC GENEVA USUN NEW YORK SECSTATE DATED 1/15/75;

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 141

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

USIA FORINA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, US, SY, SOPN

SUBJ: SYRIA MEDIA ATTACK "PARTIAL STEPS" AND U.S. PEACE  
EFFORTS GENERALLY

1. SUMMARY: AFTER PERIOD OF RELATIVE CALM, SYRIA'S  
CONTROLLED PRESS HAS AGAIN TURNED HEAT ON ISSUE OF PARTIAL  
SETTLEMENTS AND AMERICAN EFFORTS IN THAT DIRECTION. COVERAGE  
RESEMBLES THAT OF LAST MONTH'S ANGRY REACTION TO STATEMENTS  
BY ISRAELI LEADERSHIP BUT FOCUSES MORE DIRECTLY ON U.S.,  
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STATEMENT BY MINISTER INFORMATION WHO OFFICIALS CLOSE TO

PRESIDENT ASAD GIVES UNUSUAL PUBLIC STAMP TO LEADERSHIP'S  
OPPOSITION TO FURTHER PARTIAL, UNILATERAL MIDEAST SETTLEMENTS.  
END SUMMARY

2. AFTER EARLY DECEMBER'S BARRAGE DETAILING SYRIAN  
OPPOSITION TO PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS, DAMASCUS PRESS  
DIRECTED ITS ATTENTION FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AT OTHER TARGETS--  
QUADRIPARTITE CONFERENCE AND OTHER PLO ACTIVITIES, U.S.  
THREATS AGAINST ARAB OIL INSTALLATIONS, AND ASAD'S  
VISIT TO LEBANON. HOWEVER, IN PAST FEW DAYS PRESS  
HAS RETURNED TO QUESTION OF ISRAELI AND U.S. MOTIVES  
IN PURSUING PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS, TALKING LINE THAT  
ISRAEL IS INTENTIONALLY ESCALATING SITUATION IN M.E.  
DURING ALLON VISIT TO WASHINGTON BECAUSE TENSION IN  
M.E. IMPROVES ITS CHANCES FOR OBTAINING NEW MILITARY  
ASSISTANCE. ARTICLES NOTE ALSO THAT ISRAEL CONTINUES  
TO PRESENT IDEAS FOR SEPARATE AND PARTIAL AGREEMENTS  
IN ORDER TO DIVIDE ARABS.

3. AL BAATH, JANUARY 13, ASSERTED "U.S. HAS NOT  
TAKEN ONE SERIOUS STEP TOWARD A PEACEFUL AND JUST  
SETTLEMENT." COLUMNIST ADDED THAT IF U.S. SERIOUSLY  
WANTED TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH ARABS IT WOULD  
HAVE MADE SPECIFIC EFFORT TO PRESSURE ISRAEL OR, AT VERY  
MINIMUM, NOT GIVEN ISRAEL NEW SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY.

4. MOST AUTHORITATIVE MEDIA STATEMENT TO DATE HAS  
BEEN MIN INFORMATION AHMAD ISKANDAR AHMAD'S EXCLUSIVE  
JAN 13 INTERVIEW WITH DAILY STAR (CARRIED IN FBIS). AHMAD,  
WHO HAS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT ASAD,  
CHARACTERIZED U.S. EFFORTS TOWARD PARTIAL SOLUTIONS  
AS AIMED AT DRIVING WEDGE BETWEEN SYRIA AND EGYPT.  
HE ALSO SAID, "WHEN U.S. OR ISRAEL HINTS AT PARTIAL  
SETTLEMENT, IT DOES NOT DO SO OUT OF LOVE FOR THIS OR  
THAT ARAB COUNTRY BUT OUT OF HATRED FOR EGYPT AND  
SYRIA." IN FIRST PUBLIC SYRIAN REFERENCE WE HAVE  
SEEN TO SECRETARY'S TALKS HERE, AHMAD CLAIMED ASAD  
TOLD KISSINGER THAT SYRIA WOULD REGARD ANY ATTEMPT  
TO PARTITION ARAB POSITION AS HOSTILE MOVE AGAINST  
ALL ARABS. HE NOTED RABAT SUMMIT HAD UNANIMOUSLY  
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DECIDED AGAINST UNILATERAL OR PARTIAL SOLUTIONS.

5. COMMENT: PRESIDENT ASAD HIMSELF HAS NEVER  
PUBLICLY SAID HE WAS OPPOSED TO ADDITIONAL  
DISENGAGEMENT STEPS AND HE HAD RECENT OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO  
IN WIDELY REPORTED MID-DECEMBER INTERVIEW WITH INDIAN JOURNALIST.  
HIS REMARKS THEN, IN COMPARISON TO THOSE REPORTED  
ABOVE, SUGGEST PRESIDENT'S POSITION, AND CONSEQUENTLY

THAT OF SARG, IS NOT AS RIGID AS ONE MIGHT OTHERWISE  
CONCLUDE. ON OTHER HAND, MININF'S PRESS INTERVIEW,  
WHICH COULD NOT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED WITHOUT PRESIDENT'S  
APPROVAL, IS STEP UP IN SARG'S PUBLIC CAMPAIGN IN  
OPPOSITION TO FURTHER PARTIAL STEPS. HIS INTERVIEW  
UNDERLINES INCREASED FRUSTRATION AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF  
SARG OVER SLOW PROGRESS OF MOVES TOWARD PEACE.  
MURPHY UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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